

Planks Exceed 7,000; Unrepresents Contribute in Final Push

Eleventh-Hour Entries Swell Contest Total

Readers Who Posted Their Letters Before Time Limit Assured Full Consideration of Judges in Awards

Survey on Wednesday

Capital and Labor Seems Certain of Final Place as a Platform Issue

The rush of planks on the last day swelled the total ballot in The Tribune's National Republican platform planks contest considerably in Friday's mail from New York City and near by brought 466 planks. The total count to date, with readers in more remote sections presumably still to be heard from, is 7,089. While it is impracticable to publish at this time any of the late arrivals, contestants are assured that these contributions will receive the same careful consideration that is being bestowed on the earlier ones.

There is every indication that the announcement of the prize winners and the publication of The Tribune's model platform will not be delayed beyond next Sunday, May 9. Making due allowance for tardy mail, it is purpose to give on Wednesday a complete survey in detail of all the issues submitted in the contest.

In the final voting the popularity of the ten leading issues was well sustained. On the face of incomplete returns the issues of the platform may be forecast:

1. Capital and labor.
2. Foreign relations.
3. Americanization.
4. Army and navy programs.
5. Cost of living.
6. Constitutional reforms.
7. Bolshevism.
8. Education.
9. Conservation of national resources.
10. Social legislation.

For the eleventh place, which is one point removed from prize position, the issue of administration reforms and taxation are tied, with 222 votes each.

How justly The Tribune's readers have emphasized the relative importance of issues in the Presidential campaign is a legitimate subject for comment, which it is hoped will be elicited at the proper time.

It should be remarked that all the issues were made by our readers, time and again, in the course of the competition. Issues had to be changed, added or dropped, according to the inclination of popular opinion.

Among the gratifying byproducts of the contest is the volume of commendatory letters. Many Republicans give expression to a revival of spirit and of faith as a result of The Tribune's daily symposium of opinion by the rank and file as well as the leaders of the party.

"Day by day" writes one correspondent, "I have been filled with wonder as I read the published results of your stirring the waters of the civic interest. In my own case wanting answers to the Republican party was checked and presently a new glow of hope came upon me, so that now I admit myself still believe that the future of our country is bright and that the Republican party will meet and master present conditions."

America Is Advised

To Guard Rights of Island Possessions

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Modern, enlightened opinion decries that states shall visit their territorial possessions as wards to be nurtured and developed to the end that in time they may be self-governing. It is the independent commonwealths or as integral parts of a larger political organization.

The Republican party continues to view the United States as the world's trustee and the guardian and friend of her possessions. The United States would be recreant to her trust if she should grant entire independence to the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Porto Rico, the Virgin Islands or Alaska and desire for self-government.

Citizenship should be accorded the territorial inhabitants in the measure of their expressed wish and their political rectitude.

SAMUEL W. PATTERSON.
220 West 120th Street.

Government in Mexico City

Backed by U. S. Demanded

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: My advocacy of a policy of rigorous support even to the point of armed interference, of a Mexican administration favorable to this country, I believe to be sound.

The little doubt that any party which the United States chooses to support could easily win its way to power, and there is just as little doubt that such a government, backed by official declaration of the United States, would be able to maintain itself until the Mexican people themselves began to profit by the increased educational advantages, increased commerce, etc., which would inevitably result.

H. B.

Tutelage Policy in Latin America

Considered Worthy of Permanence

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Experience has proved that it is to the best interest of all concerned for us to continue to maintain our tutelage policy with respect to the Latin American countries. In addition to securing them against foreign encroachment we should endeavor to build up an entente of good feeling and friendly intercourse—our sincere assurance that we have no designs on their territory or trade and an attitude of abstention from officious, uncalculated for mediation will do much to remove suspicion and promote harmony and confidence. Mexico presents a peculiar problem, and if intervention proves necessary we should limit our action to the protection of the lives and property of our citizens and not push redress of grievances to the point.

Colonial possessions add nothing to the well-being of the average citizen and often mean little more than additional problems for his government. If American investors must seek foreign markets let us obtain their security by treaties or agreements rather than by warships and protectorates. As for the islands we now own, about the best thing we could do would be to "stand pat" on the question of possession and continue a liberal policy of education and social legislation for the natives.

J. W. F.

To-Day's Prize Letter

Encourage Production by Eliminating Waste in Distribution

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: The American people have been repeatedly accused of neglecting the greater things—the intellectual, the artistic and the spiritual—and concentrating too wholeheartedly upon mundane matters. Whether or not the accusation is just, there is no way for a people to attend to the greater things until it can cease worrying about the fundamental, basic ones, the ones upon which life itself depends: food, clothing, housing, fuel and health. We are worrying about these five so much that we are letting them take precedence over the things that are the real proof of a people's growth and the real test of its greatness.

What more important issues can be there than these five? One, or, rather, these five parts of the one big issue? Is either party focusing its attention upon five more substantial planks to stand upon than these. We need leaders to show us the way out, to help us see light ahead. The party which produces such leaders will win, and deserves to win.

We read that underproduction is the cause of the high cost of living, and that the next administration should employ every facility at its disposal to stimulate greater production.

While the public may not don overalls and push the

plow, it can get behind the man who pushes the plow and give him all the moral support he needs. It can give him a square deal and receive a square deal in return if it focuses its attention upon what happens from the time the food leaves the farm to the time it reaches the consumer. Public sentiment will encourage production by eliminating waste in distribution. Public sentiment can put an end to the evil that enables distributors to receive 55 per cent of whatever goes into the cost of milk and potatoes and all food commodities. Can the Republican party direct its energies toward an issue more fundamental than this?

The cost of distribution must be lowered; it must be simplified. At present the farmer receives too little, the consumer pays too much; the distributors grow fat on both. No useless employee should be retained to add to the cost of distribution. Eliminate the useless members, the surplus everywhere and give them an opportunity to turn to production in the factory or on the farm. It is not right that six-tenths should be engaged in distribution and only four-tenths in production. These proportions should be reversed.

What an opportunity is here for leaders of the right type to encourage production by fighting the waste in distribution—

REX A. COLLINGS.
33 North Maple Avenue, East Orange, N. J.

Strong Republican System Demanded

In Army and Navy

Universal Training System That Does Not Require Actual Service Opposed as Useless Experiment

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Land and sea defense, it must be conceded, can be practically maintained only by high morale and efficient personnel in all units; and, therefore, universal training becomes worth while as the requirements for such defense are understood and taught. The idea of giving a boy or a girl elementary setting-up exercises, close order marching drill, interior guard duty, and similar preliminaries of the most rudimentary military education cannot be seriously taken to mean universal training, because practically all these can be given in the ordinary preparatory school, requiring no admission into the service of Uncle Sam.

The work of perfecting our permanent military establishment and that of our glorious navy must be entrusted to a strong Republican administration. In such a course alone may the chaotic conditions and the lack of numbers be corrected and the way for universal training made clear.

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J. W. F.

Economy Wrong If Misapplied

Republican Party Warned of Danger in Saving That May Be Self-Destructive

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Economy in governmental expenditures is certainly one of the outstanding needs of the day, but no thoughtful citizen can demand an economy that is self-destructive and that amounts in the long run to indirect but appalling extravagance. A parsimonious policy with respect to national defense is particularly to be deplored, and when it also conspires to impair the morale or patriotism of our fighting forces it can be regarded only as the height of folly.

As a plank of actual economy, fair dealing and wisdom, the Republican party should undertake to guarantee substantial increases in pay to all enlisted men and officers of the navy.

J. W. FRIEDMAN.
26 New York Avenue, Brooklyn.

Volstead Act Denounced

As Violation of Rights

Eighteenth Amendment Held Contrary to Rights of All the People

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Constitution of the United States says "all men shall be free and equal." I am still of the opinion that the Eighteenth Amendment is contrary to the precepts and fundamental principles of the Constitution.

We are no longer a nation of freedom and action, of common sense, plain sailing and a free mind, but a nation of restriction, idealists, fanatics and what not. Everybody wants a revision of taxation; a reduction in the high cost of living; the restoration of the rights and liberties of every man or woman, whether he be a laborer or a capitalist.

Now, take prohibition, for instance. Did it ever occur to the prohibitionists that they are now on the "prohibition" means? The revenues derived from distillers, brewers, wholesalers, retailers and excise tax, amounted to \$100,000,000. The revenues derived from the government, states and municipalities suddenly find their treasuries depleted. To meet the deficiencies in revenue, additional tax, even on the necessities of life, must be levied. Hence, taxation, high cost of living, instead of decreasing, is mounting.

Another argument is the high cost of labor and production. There is no doubt that prohibition has forced a war, Every working man or woman is working to the limit of his or her capacity and endurance. Must they kill themselves, starve their families, deny their children the necessities of life, remain vasals, while others enjoy that which life offers? The laboring man or woman to-day is a thinker and a student, no longer a cheap asset, and he will not be a party to any issue in this or any other nation.

A. B. NORRIS.
51 West Ninety-fourth Street, New York City.

Argues for Free Trade

High Tariff Held Conducive to Continued High Prices

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The United States has seen what it means to be the biggest seller to the world. It means hoards of money coming to our country—and what else? High prices. The more money that comes in the higher prices will be. This is an axiom. If we continue to sell to other countries and accept money in return the rate of exchange will be still further from being stabilized.

A high protective tariff in the United States will make it impossible for foreign countries to take goods to our shores. They will be forced to pay off their debt in money, and I say again, what will the money do? Raise prices. We need a low tariff in this time of abnormal conditions. England and France must unload all their surplus upon the United States, and to enable these countries to do this we must approximate free trade. How else will the exchange rate be normal?

The Republican party could well incorporate such a plank in its platform.

E. L. P.

Punishment of Profiteers

In Foodstuffs Is Demanded

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Whereas food is vital, the United States government should prosecute anybody guilty of the usurpation of food as a negotiable commodity. This plank in the Republican platform will do away with food profiteers, who make it very hard for American mothers to bring up good, strong healthy babies because of the premium on food.

DOROTHY FROOKS.
Saugerties, N. Y.

Safeguarding Democracy

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There are many ways in which safeguards for our beloved land may be manifested, but these will never be perfected until we all are indoctrinated with the idea and fact that we are integral parts of this democracy.

We would recommend that in order to secure this safety every citizen, native or foreign born, should study and learn by heart the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

ADDISON W. WHITLOCK.

Uphold the Majority

By Backing Constitution

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As this government is the voice of the majority for all the people, minority and majority, the Republican party must pledge itself to uphold the majority by supporting the Constitution which expresses the government of the people, for the people, by the people. I hear frequently such expressions: "The people are in the saddle," "It is the people's day."

F. L. W.

Choice of Man

A Grave Duty

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Owing to the fact that but twenty-one states of the forty-eight will select their national delegates by popular vote, it is clear that the Presidential nominee cannot be selected by the popular vote.

This places squarely upon the delegates selected by the convention system the burden of responsibility to make a selection representative of the choice of a majority of the American people. And the Republican organization by its responsibility for these convention delegates must assume responsibility for the nominee.

The best man for the job, so far as the votable is concerned, may be made impossible by his exclusion in the convention. Thus it is easily seen how important is the duty of the Republican party at Chicago.

Then before we consider the duty of the electorate at the polls or the larger party obligations coincident with election in November, there is the outstanding potentiality and responsibility of the party at Chicago.

LUCIUS SUMNER HICKS.

Utilization of Rainfall

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the control and regulation of the natural resources of the country there should be somebody to do the planning. It should be made a business proposition and not a political activity. The conservation and utilization of rainfall are fundamental, and the property of the country should be upon an intelligent understanding of this problem and its efficient solution.

HENRY G. WACHTMANN.

Alien Women

And Effect on

Ballot as Issue

Law Giving Foreign-Born Wives of Citizens Right to Participate in Elections Said to Portend Danger

Fast Rule Set for Men

Suffrage Amendment Held as Necessitating Similar Restrictions on Females

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In viewing the problem of the foreign-born and the illiterate voter most of us have lost sight of the fact that the national woman suffrage amendment will open an easy access in the case of foreign-born women to exercise the most important right and duty of citizenship. The status of foreign-born men will remain unchanged, but immigrant women will find it an easy matter to become voters simply by marrying a citizen.

It is an accepted theory of our law that marriage of a female citizen of any other nation to an American citizen confers citizenship on the wife. As soon as the suffrage amendment becomes effective this theory will give the right to vote. It takes no prophetic eye to discern that unless measures be taken to avert this a foreign-born woman, through the simple expedient of marriage, can almost upon her arrival in this country exercise the suffrage, even though she be totally ignorant of our laws, our customs and our politics.

There are some who now rather stringent laws regarding the admission of foreign-born men to citizenship and the attendant right to vote. The national suffrage amendment will make it necessary to enact similar laws for married women of foreign nativity. Perhaps it will be impracticable to change the rule that marriage to an American citizen confers citizenship. Step by step, however, we should hold the ballot from women of foreign birth until they comply with the same residential and educational qualifications now demanded of foreign-born men.

L. M. S.

Tax System Held

Blow at Thrift

Policy That Will Make Rich Bear Great Share of Burden Is Proposed

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As a step toward the lowering of the high cost of living the reform of our present taxation system warrants consideration. Certain facts are obvious in this connection. Taxes should be heavier on the rich than on the poor. The should be levied with the minimum amount of discomfort to the citizen and the government. They should be collected so that the expenses are not excessively large.

What is wrong with our present system of taxation? The present system pays a premium on extravagance and discounts thrift. The present system of taxation is the power at its command, such articles of the Constitution as have been violated, so that the humblest citizen may be safeguarded in all of his rights and privileges as guaranteed to him by that immortal instrument—H. A. Wallace.

University of Politics

We desire to prepare our young men and women for the proper solution of our national problems by establishing a university of politics at Washington, the student body to be composed of two high school graduates from each Congressional district, selected by competitive examination each year, whose expenses will be paid by the government. Upon graduation, we feel they will return to their homes as qualified, constructive leaders in their communities. Joseph G. Lawler, 29 Second Avenue, North Pelham, N. Y.

Combat Spread of Bolshevism

We feel morally justified and obligated to combat the spread of the doctrines of Bolshevism, since we consider them entirely alien and repugnant to the principles of our Constitution and the spirit of American democracy. We believe in reform only by constitutional method, and all who propose the forcible overthrow of the government shall be deemed enemies of the people. Education shall be enlisted on the side of loyalty to our institutions and we shall employ it to vitiate the effects of Bolshevistic propaganda, strengthening the people's confidence in the government.

F. B. MCLAUGHLIN.
Beta House, Hamilton, N. Y.

Place in World Affairs

U. S. Participation in Great Movements Advocated

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: America has an unquestionable interest in world affairs. Its ideas and ideals are necessary to a handling of these affairs which will preserve legitimate American interests.

It should be one of the aims of the Republican party to foster consistent American participation in all world movements, and the spread of our culture, not by force or by craft, but by publicity and voluntary adoption.

REID DAVIES.

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HENRY G. WACHTMANN.

Survey of 7,089 Planks

The following is a record by issues of the planks submitted in the fourteen weeks of The Tribune's Republican Platform Contest, arranged according to votes so far counted for each issue:

1. Capital and Labor.....	702	14. Free Speech.....	198
2. Foreign Relations.....	681	15. Tariff.....	194
3. Americanization.....	565	16. Mexican Question.....	177
4. Army and Navy Programs.....	536	17. The Woman Voter.....	168
5. Cost of Living.....	401	18. Aid for Soldiers.....	167
6. Constitutional Reforms.....	362	19. Prohibition.....	165
7. Bolshevism.....	335	20. Budget.....	162
8. Education.....	325	21. Government Control of Industry.....	146
9. Conservation of National Resources.....	302	22. Merchant Marine.....	144
10. Social Legislation.....	230	23. National Economy.....	127
11. Administration Reforms.....	222	24. Railroads.....	106
12. Taxation.....	222	25. National Finance.....	104
13. Immigration.....	205	26. Agriculture.....	89
		27. Island Possessions.....	54
		Total.....	7,089

Some Suggested Planks

Among the mass of suggestions for planks in the Republican platform are the following:

Conservation of Our Resources

Conservation of our natural resources presses now for a sound, constructive policy. Prodigious consumption of coal, oil and timber confronts us. The present must answer to the future if reforestation does not keep pace with denuded wood, and the water running to waste productive, and water running to waste is not harnessed for economic work.

FLOYD D. HIGHLAND CROSS, Rutherford, N. J.

Economic Adjustment

We recognize the imperative need for economic adjustment involving the increased production of essential commodities and avoidance of waste. We favor a wage scale for labor of all classes, including unskilled and the so-called clerical or office employees, and consistent earnings on legitimate investments.

FLOYD D. HIGHLAND CROSS, Rutherford, N. J.

Rigid Enforcement of Laws

The Republican party pledges its best efforts toward the rigid enforcement of all valid laws, especially all laws, statutes and regulations bearing upon the rights and responsibilities of all citizens of the United States. In the rigid enforcement of such laws lies the surest test of their value, for if—after a fair trial—they are found to be unjust, they may be repealed or amended. —Andrew Knies, 501 Buffalo Street, White Haven, Pa.

Condemn Government Waste

We condemn the inefficiency and extravagance rampant in the soldiers' war risk insurance, occupational education and other government bureaus and departments, and believing the government should be first to set an example, we pledge the Republican party to inaugurate an efficient, businesslike, economical administration in all government departments and activities. —H.